

RECKLESS RALPH'S

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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MY SEARCH FOR OLD NICK CARTERS

By Joe Gantner

In the year 1938 something peculiar came over me, I had a strong desire to become a Writer, and I wrote a Historical Novel called, "In Old Missouri". With this desire to write there also came a desire to see again those friends of my boyhood; those old 5c weeklies, of which NICK CARTER, and the LIBERTY BOYS OF '76, were my favorites. Somehow this novel I was writing was about old Frontier-men, and Indians, and the craving came into my heart to again see the many colorful covers of the old Liberty Boys, where the Indians of the woods were depicted in many actions. There is a great difference between Indians whose habitat were in the woods, and the Indians of the plains, and my book was about the Indians of the Forest.

The desire being so very strong within me to see some of these old weeklies, I wondered how I could again get some. I remembered as a boy, and young man, that I had a stack of them about three feet high, and I can not to this day remember what became of them. Maybe the folks burned them up, although my mother approved of me reading them. One of my happiest remembrances of when I was a small boy, was of my father bringing home at least five 5c NICK CARTERS, and of all of our family sitting around the stove reading these old weeklies. Let the wind howl and the snow fall as deep as it wanted to, we were happy in that

cheerful room, with our books and imagination. We really thought that there was a man like Nick Carter living in New York City.

The idea came to me, that probably I could get to see bound volumes of these old weeklies by writing to the Library of Congress, at Washington, D. C. I had borrowed some volumes of photograph magazines that way, and our Government will gladly help us whenever it can, if it comes through the right channels. They wrote me a nice letter, telling me that on account of the poor condition of the paper, that they could not send these old weeklies. They suggested that I could still buy them, from Ralph F. Cummings, Charles Bragin, and Charles H. Austin. I wrote to the gentlemen, and I was very happy to find out that there were other men who had something in common with me, and to know that they had formed a Happy Hours Brotherhood, and published such an interesting little magazine called the ROUND-UP. This is one magazine I read from cover to cover, and I believe it could be enlarged, and come out weekly, and also cover the old circus days. Whenever I think of old 5c weeklies, I think of the big railroad circuses that used to roll into town early in the morning. What a colorful past we have had! We had imagination in those old days, and without imagination there is no happiness in life. Every age and generation has its certain brand of pleasure, and if the young generation of today think they have a monopoly upon thrills, they have another guess coming, for while

they have their colored moving pictures of today, we had those brilliant colored weeklies, and real large and heavy circus parades, and frankly I think the past has been more colorful than the present. I doubt if the Super-Man Comics of today thrill the young, as the Buffalo Bills, Nick Carters, Diamond Dicks, did of our age.

There are certain periods in life, when one's interest in old weeklies, was the most intense, and my period was from the years 1900 to 1906, as I was from eight to fourteen years old at that time. I noticed in the literature that the three men mentioned above sent out, that Old Nick Carters, and Liberty Boys sold for a dollar or two, and not having much money at that time, I did not order any old copies. Finally my friend and pard, Ralph Cummings wrote to me that he had a new collection of Nick Carters that he could sell at a very reasonable price, and I ordered four Nick Carters and one Liberty Boy, and believe me I received one of the greatest thrills of my life when I opened the package and saw those Old Nick Carters again looking me in the face. They were No's. 380, 384, 385, 387, and the Liberty Boy was No. 483. Ralph sent me a real old copy of the Nick Carter Library, published Sept. 26, 1891. Printed a year before I was born. While greatly delighted to get these Nick Carters, what I really wanted was the ones published around 1900, and between numbers 200 and 300, and just recently again my friend Ralph F. Cummings came to my rescue and sent me just the ones I wanted. I am sorry I can not give the numbers of these old Nick Carters, as I have them at the studio, and I am writing this at home. They were published between the years of 1900 and 1902, and believe me you can imagine my elation when I received them. I remember especially one picture that brought back pleasant memories of my boyhood, when my brothers and myself played detective, and that was a picture of Chick Carter shooting through his pocket at some thugs. My Dad used to say, "Twice a boy, and once a man," and dog-gone, if I don't believe it.

Dime Novel Catalogue. Illustrated. Free for stamped envelope. R. Bragin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

A SHORT SHORT MYSTERY

By
Stewart Needa Novel Bender
Super Author

Twas the night afore Christmas and all through the house not a soul was a stirrin not even a mouse—No? Sez you. Twan't that night back in 1910 any how for I could heer Paw's feet a comin long the hall mighty quiet like but the creakin o the floor stirred me to relization from my nose in a Frank Reade—Boy how the wind was a howlin and the snow abloin tomorrow tweren't nothin to do and I had made up my mind to keep the old oil lamp aworkin overtime the night for Frank was a doin some mighty heeroic things but alas the door nob quietly turned and opened on a crack a pause I was a readin fast faster in a Methodist Sunday School Paper but just as soon as the door shet I was back to Frank again. Weel folks morning came and down I hot foots it to the good old Buckwheats and Sassage and Maw's fried taters.

Maw and Paw and Sister Ann was there Paw and Maw a smilin all over—John I'm proud of ye my boy—I reckon you didn't see me a peakin in on ye last night and let me tell you m-boy just ye keep on areadin them Sunday School Papers and ye'll go places I'm mighty glad I won't have to be hidin of ye for areadin them no fit dime novels anymore. Weel Paw I preciate yer confidence in my new leaf sez I. Woil folks twan't but a few weeks afore I went up to my room to burn more oil when I missed my huge stack of Sunday School Papers. I was mighty upshot I tell ye but I didn't dare open my tater trap but next mornin Maw sure exploded a bomb in my future happines that Rev. Brown hed borrowed stack of Sunday School Paers to look up a couple that he wished to see as he had given out all he hed—I musta been mighty white cause Maw said I looked sick, woil boys I sure was on thistles for the next few days when going around the corner ran right smack into Rev. Brown. He tuck me by the arm and hurried me into an alley and sez to me John I got a pkg of novels at the Parish house and I thought they must be yours as ever one of them Sunday

School Papers had one inserted in them and John if ye ever get any more o them I'll borrow some more of the Sunday School Papers for they sure are elenatin.

'TIS SAID—

THAT Bro. Caldwell is so lucky, that if he fell into the river he'd come up with a file of "Campfire" Lby.

THAT Bros. French and Bragin had got themselves gloriously killed in Europe. An error. Neither was killed exactly. Just a little argument and no holds barred.

THAT Bro. Smeltzer's basement is now lined with kegs of new-brew sauerkraut. The atmosphere can by no possible fancy be mistaken for spicy waftures from the Vale of Kashmir, but "Oh man, says Bob, the flavor, **THE FLAVOR!**" His winter's food problem is solved.

THAT Bro. Buck Wilson, our Club's pugilistic phenom, has arranged to meet the tar-ball, Joe Lewis. Brothers will please omit the flowers.

THAT Bro. Morgan has disappeared from circulation. When last seen, Levi was arguing with a copper. Five dollars reward for his return.

When about to intrude upon the privacy of our honored Brother Johannsen, we were given pause by the sign on the door, "SILENCE, GENIUS AT WORK". Not for us to interrupt the pearls of thought and wisdom flowing from our Brother's pen, we tiptoed from the vicinity with the steady scratch and rythm of his goose-quill in our ears.

The great response of our members to Bro. Nathan's appeal for deposits, necessitated the addition of a night-shift by the SAND BANK OF JERSEY. Sam wishes to thank our Brothers and hopes to be able to quit business and close down in a week. He has taken on fifty-two pounds in weight in 3 months, and credits it to success and knackwursts.

Playing the ponies is bad business. Our famed naturalist, Bro. Miller lost his pants at it. . . the extra pair. A born sportsman, Cleve insists that one pair of sylvias is enough for any he-man, and that really a shirt is unnecessary. But he will play no more hundred-to-one long-shots, although he insists that in the worst case, he can always find refuge in his

uniform, the sanctuary of his breech-clout.

A letter from Bro. Bill Burns to President Cummings accuses ye scribe of being an "imposcher". Well, that's something, anyhow.

MR. MERRIWELL

By W. B. McCafferty
Seminole, Okla.

I am grateful to Gil Patten
For his newest Merriwell,
For its better grade of paper
And its "get-up" all so "swell";
I am glad that good old "Merry"
Married Inza Burrage true,
But there's sadneess in my gladness,
For he's not the Frank I knew.

Oh, he still believes in virtue,
And his friendship is the same
As when he came to Fardale
With the good, unsullied name;
But he sports a smoking jacket,
And he pulls his old pipe too,
Which was no part of the hero
That my happy boyhood knew.

Though the voice of faithful Inza,
Talking with her Frank alone,
Of the future of her daughter
Bart, in low, soft, monotone,
May remind me of the past days
When they planned their future too,
Yet they'e not the Frank and Inza
That my early boyhood knew.

There's a tone of Modernism
That has robbed him of his charm,
And speaks lightly of an action
That could only bring on harm.
I refer to fair Bart's secret—
Of her gnawing silent woe;
Which would not have been recorded
In the books I use to know.

Yes, I'm grateful to Gil Patten,
For the tale he's tried to tell.
But it lacks the subtle something
That my boyhood loved so well,
I have missed the noble hero
Who was fair to friend and foe,
And have failed to find the "Merry"
That my boyhood use to know.

What Have You in JACK HARK-
AWAY Stories? I want the Fourth
and Last Series.

THOMAS W. FIGLEY
Glouster Public Schools
Glouster, Ohio.

NEWSY NEWS

by ye editor

Prof. Johannsen returned from his eastern trip to Washington Library of Congress, and New York with pretty near everything that he went after. Guess his book on the house of Beadle will soon be rolling over the presses. It will be the most complete works ever to be written, taking in most all if not all the author's of dime and nickel novels, all about Beadle & Co., Beadle & Adams, etc. as well as many illustrations. We all await your most valuable compilation of the works of Beadles, Prof.

Member No. 33, John Breznicky, R. 1057 Peace St., Hazelton, Pa., died October 14th, 1941, after a long illness. He leaves a wife and three young children. John was 36 years old. God Bless him, may his soul rest in peace.

He had a lot of colored cover novels, such as Wild West, Pluck & Luck, etc, and it will help his wife out, if she can only sell them. Write to Mrs. Susan Breznicky, address above.

George French stopped in to see ye editor, Reckless Ralph, November the 15th. We had quite a chat on the old times, also did a little trading. George stopped in on his way home to Bloomfield, N. J., from his old home in Keezer Falls, Maine, where he goes every summer.

Willis Hurd and his wife, of Arlington, Va., called on Ray Caldwell, October 19th. Prof. Johannsen also called on Ray, a short while before. They all had a wonderful time, chatting and looking over novels. Prof. Johannsen also called on John T. McIntyre of Phila, in waiting between trains. The Prof. would have called on more of the fellows, but he received word that his wife had been sent to the hospital. We all hope she is on the road to recovery, Prof.

Ever hear of this one, I never did, but I happened to find a copy of it, and it is as scarce as hen's teeth.

"Ten Cent Irish Novels," No. 5, "The Mysterious Murder, or Crohoare of the Billbook." A story of Old Ireland, by Banim. Published by Ornum & Co., of New York, in the year of 1872. Has colored picture on the front cover, shows a fellow playing a bagpipe, while a real Irishman listens while leaning on a cane. Size 4 x 6½ inches,

98 pages. The reading, altho of Irish origin, is in real good old U. S. English. It sure is a rare one. Watch this column for further news on real scarce old timers.

I just came across No. 1 of the New Shadow Comic's out in 1940, don't know the exact date, but guess it's all right, but what surprised me was when I glanced through it. I came across both Frank Merriwell, Nick Carter, and comics by Horatio Alger, all very interesting, too. Here they are, as I think they will be of interest. Page 22 to 26, Frank Merriwell at college; 31 to 38, Nick Carter, Super Sleuth, and ah yes, there's a Diamond Dick comic, too—42 to 45—Diamond Dick; 46 to 52, Bob Burton and the Ranch Mystery of H. Alger, Jr. There are other comics too, besides the Shadow himself.

Irving Shulman writes in, that Frank Reade is also used in some of the Shadow stories. Instead of coming back in the old novels, they are coming back in the Comic Magazines.

Dime Novel Star-dust, selected from Ralph P. Smith's famous Happy Hours magazine and other sources, appeared in the latest copy of James Madison's magazine, for Oct., Nov. and Dec. 1941, No. 28, The Collector & Guide. Also other very interesting articles, too. He is No. 61 of Happy Hours Bro.

We are very sorry to hear that V. Valta Parma, Curator of the Rare Book Room at the Library of Congress, Washington, D. C., died some time in July or August, 1941, following a month or so of illness.

Several months before he died, Buffalo Bill wrote to the War Department applying for the dole of \$10.00 a month, which, as a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, he was entitled to; and which, as a married man in straitened circumstances, he needed.

Ranch Romances on the news-stands every where, don't miss a copy. Pure and fine Western stories that hit the spot, can't be beat.

Have Black and Whites
to trade for Black and Whites.
What have you—Send List.

ARVID DAHLSTEDT
In Care of The Billboard,
1564 Broadway, New York City, N. Y.

PARTIAL LIST OF H. H. BROS. MEMBERS FOR 1941

Nos.

- 14 Wm. M. Kreling, 140 San Anselmo Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
- 53 H. L. (Buck) Wilson, R. F. D. # 1, Alliance, Ohio.
- 77 Joseph Krajic, 1433 Scoville Ave, S. W. Canton, Ohio. (4 years)
- 111 Fred Lee, 4050 Cornelius Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
- 146 Joseph C. Bernhard, 4501 East Main Street, Columbus, Ohio. (new member)
- 147 Wm. J. Hahn, 305 Washington Avenue, Evansville, Ind. (new member)
28. John P. Ball, 4816 Cortland St., Chicago, Ill.
148. Elias A. Taylor, 172 Burrell St., Swampscott, Mass. (New Member).
149. George Van Ness, P. O. Box 523 Beacon, N. Y.

WANTED

The following Old Cap Collier Libraries: Nos. 104, 147, 263, 647, 721, or any Old Cap written by David Druid or Tom W. King, author of the Calvert Cole stories. Will pay cash or swap.

GEORGE N. BECK

2114 Scott St. Davenport, Iowa

Rubber Stamps Made: 30c line; additional line 20c. Postpaid. Steele, 1966-V Villa, Pasadena, Calif.

WANTED

Saturday Night—Published in Philadelphia—1880, 1890 issues—with stories by T. C. Ford and Laura C. Ford, also Felix Boyd stories written by Scott Campbell. These must be in the Magnet Library, also Medal Library.

CHARLES BRAGIN

1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wanted—Young Sports of America. G. Nisivoccia, 218 Mt. Prospect Ave., Newark, N. J.

Punch, Bound run, 1841-7, 1852-60, \$2.00 each. Frank J. O'Hearn, 151 Newberry St., Boston, Mass.

Thousands of Dime Novels to trade; send for my 7 page swap list. Bragin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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The Only Magazine on Bloods and Penny Dreadfuls of its kind, published in Canada.

What do you know about British Boys Journals, Blood, etc.?

Send in an article for the Next Issue.

Story Paper Collector sent free.

W. H. GANDER

Box 60, Transcona, Man., Canada.

FOR SALE

PHOTOGRAPH PRINTS

Of 9 Illustrations of New Nick Carter Weekly, before No. 370, all one picture, size 5x7. Or two pictures, none alike, for 50c, or 25c a picture of 9.

Write

JOSEPH K. GANTNER

c/o DeLuxe Studio, Boonville, Mo.

Collector's Miscellany

The paper for anyone interested in old Boys' Books, Type Specimens, Juvenile Theatre, Chapbooks, Broad-sides, Street Ballads, Dying Speeches, and other printed ephemera.

Send a Dollar for Next Ten Issues.

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52 Craigie Ave. Dundas, Scotland.

COLLECTORS' ITEMS

They collect, it seems,
 Almost anything,
 From antiques to dreams,
 From birdcalls to string—
 Foreign coins, firearms,
 Stamps, dolls, model boats,
 Theater programs, charms,
 Shaving mugs, love notes,
 Butterflies, rare books,
 Novels, Chinese prints,
 Autographs, fishhooks,
 Wedgwood, household hints,
 Sea shells, license plates,
 Travel folders, maps,
 Snowstorm paperweights,
 Tobies, candid snaps,
 Authors' purple patches,
 Buttons, old wine labels—
 Everything from matches
 To sunsets and sables!

—Eva Dubonnet.

(Sent in by C. J.)

FREE ADS

Have Deadwood Dick Libraries, Leisure Hours, Police Gazettes, etc., to trade for Tip Top, Liberty Boys of 76, or what have you? Settel's Hobby Exchange, 24 Crosby Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Want—Secret Service No. 424.—Charles Bragin, 1525 W. 12th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Wanted—The Log Cabin Series—viz—Nero, Julius Caesar, Josephine, all by Abbott, also Bad Hugh, by Mary J. Holmes. Wm. B. McCafferty, 1212 Denver Ave., Fort Worth, Texas.

Can get Nick Carter Books. What do you want, and offer? A. J. Sherwin, 611 Plum St., Cincinnati, Ohio.

I have from 100 to 200 Wild West, etc. What will you offer for the lot? Harold Hahn, Johnson, Nebr.

Have Nick Carter Books, Merriwells that came out of an old store. Will trade for old buttons or glass. Mrs. Grace Liggit, R. D. 1, Box 706, Joplin, Mo.

For Swap—Best offer takes them. Hundreds of Frank Leslie's Monthlies, Readers Digest, Sat. Evening Post, etc. Can use postage stamps, or? Weeco, Mount Joy, Pa.

Want—Dime Novels, by Edmund Pearson, also Black and Red, by same author. What do you want, cash or trade. V. Shulman, 912 Linden Blvd., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Want—Shadow Magazines before 1938. Have 125 Argosy and Western Story Mags, to swap. Linzee S. Hooper, 82 Leavitt St., Hingham, Mass.

Frank Reades wanted. Send list and price to Howard Fahrner, 785-787 St. Paul St., Rochester, N. Y.

For Swap—Who wants World War Liberty Loan Posters? I have them in good condition to swap for novels. W. M. Burns, 15 Cottage St., Rockland, Maine.

Want Godey Lady Books before 1850 with plates, please describe. W. R. Johnson, 244 N. 11th St., Lincoln, Nebr.

WANTED

Information About

Young Sports Library—Pub. 1893.

Also same about Young Sports Weekly.

Dime Novels for Sale and Exchange.

ALBERT STONE

88 Norfolk Ave., Swampscott, Mass.

Well gents, I am collecting them again, and looking for the following numbers of Secret Service in fine unstamped condition:

Nos. 115 118, 120 121 137 157 170 178 179 195 207 208 249 254 291 310 312 319 345 361 369 370 377 382 388 399 402 406 415 421 433 434 445 448 450 481 482 491 495 500 505 511.

If you have any of these in the condition described, name your price, or what do you want in exchange—send me your want list.

L. MORGAN

3018 25th St. N. E.

Washington, D. C.

WANTED AT ALL TIMES

EARLY DIME NOVELS

EARLY AMERICAN FICTION

AMERICANA IN GENERAL

PROMPT PAYMENT ALWAYS

Edward Morrill & Son

144 Kingston Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Well boys the last ad got wonderful results, so here goes a couple more bucks. If you have anything to sell let me know; either large quantities or small. Ralph deserves our patronage, because he is the one who makes the whole novel business possible. Give him your ads and get subscriptions for him. Why should one man carry all the load? If you want to buy anything let me know. Shipments coming and going all the time.

ROY E. MORRIS

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Mason City, Iowa

WINTER FOR SALE LIST

Fame and Fortune # 787 796 797 799 800 801 803 804 806 807 808 809 810
 811 813 814 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 829 833
 835 837 838 840 841 842 843 844 845 847 848 849 850 851 853 854 855
 856 857 858 859 861 to 867 869 to 902 903 to 912 914 to 916 918 to
 928 933 935 947 956 982 999 1002 1009 1012 1020 1023 1024 1041 1051
 to 1054 1057 1061 1062 1064 to 1066 1068 1070 1072 to 1075 1077 to
 1079 1081 1083 to 1085 1095 1096 1098 to 1109.

Wild West # 918 919 922 925 to 927 929 931 to 933 937 939 to 944 948 952
 953 955 956 958 to 962 968 970 971 975 to 978 980 to 985 991 994
 1004 1011 1012 1022 to 1024 1028 to 1042 1044 to 1052 1054 1056
 1058 to 1067 1069 to 1072 1075 to 1078 1080 1081 1082 1187 1190
 1192 1193 1195 1196 1198 1200 1201 1210 to 1217 1219 1225 1227
 1228 1230 to 1232 1234 1253 1262.

Work and Win # 1206 1207 1216 1212 1213 1215 1219 1228 to 1231 1236 1242
 1245 1247 to 1249 1251 1057 1264 1266 1273 1300 to 1303 1305 1306
 1311 1313 1316 1317 1319 to 1322.

Pluck and Luck # 1146 1153 1158 1159 1161 1164 1177 1185 1191 1192
 1195 1197 1203 1208 to 1210 1214 1221 1223 1225 1228 1230 1236 1238
 1241 1244 1245 1255 1259 1268 1273 1274 1276 1278 1288 1289 1299
 1300 1306 1310 1321 1329 1330 1332 1318 1353 1357 1378 1379 1386
 1388 1389 1391 1396 1408 1410 1411 1418 1420 1422 to 1424 1428
 1440 to 1443 1447 1449 1450 1452 1454 1457 1459 1461 to 1463 1465
 1469 1472 1474 1475 1479 1480 1483 1484 1480 to 1494 1497 1499
 1481 1510 1511 1513 to 1515 1519 1525 1537 1538.

Old Sleuths Own # 18 29 33 36 37 42 43 46 to 57 65 67 68 70 to 73 75 76
 78 61 78 to 80 82 to 85 88 90 91 94 95 97 103 105 106 108 109 111
 112 116 119 120 123 125 126 128 129 132 135 138 35 142.

Deadwood Dick Library # 2 to 29 31 to 64.

Family Story Paper # 1300 up.

Beadles Frontier Series # 1 to 11 13 to 16 18 to 47 49 to 51 53 to 55 60
 to 71 73 to 75 77 to 79 81 to 85 87 88 90 91 93 to 100.

The Pirate Story Series # 1 to 5.

Little Blue Books # 109 110 128 432 447.

Appeal Pocket Series # 135 168 201.

Ten Cent Pocket Series # 4 6 8 15 16 19 to 22 25 26 28 to 31 36 42 45 48
 50 53 54 56 58 67 68 73 to 77 80 to 84 89 91 92 93 95 98 103 114 115
 117 119 121 123 131 132 136 138 139 143 144 145 133 152 154 160 163
 165 166 167 200 207 213 215 216 217 221 230 232 235 236 256 277 280
 291 292 295 299 304 310 312 315 318 321 322 326 342 344 345 348
 408 437 442.

Handy Series (Joke Books) # 1 2 5 6 17 20 23 37 41 51.

Gem Library (Joke Books) # 1 5 7 to 15 19 to 22 24 28 31 to 33 36 38
 40 to 43 45 46 48 49 50 52.

Any of the above for 10c each. Send want list, as I may have others.

1 Lot of Golden Days, 200 copies more or less, a poor lot, but worth \$2.00.
 Lots of reading in 'em.

Everything sent Postpaid and Insured.

Ralph F. Cummings

Fisherville, Mass.